

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)
JERKER BERGENEK et al.) Group Art Unit: (unassigned)
Application No.: (unassigned)) Examiner: (unassigned)
Filed: April 27, 2001)
For: CHECK FOR FINGERPRINTS)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified Application, filed concurrently herewith, as indicated.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly replace Claims 4 to 11, 15 and 16, and add new Claims 17 to 20, as follows.

4. (Amended) A method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of, if the location of the recorded fingerprint on the sensor and the location of the previously recorded fingerprint essentially correspond, considering the recorded fingerprint as originating from a latent fingerprint.

5. (Amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein the previously recorded fingerprint is the immediately preceding fingerprint which was considered as originating from a finger placed on the sensor

6. (Amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein the previously recorded fingerprint is the immediately preceding fingerprint which was accepted.

7. (Amended) A method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of storing (150) information about the location of the recorded fingerprint on the sensor if the recorded fingerprint is not considered as originating from a latent fingerprint.

8. (Amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein the step of comparing (130) the location of the recorded fingerprint on the sensor with the location of a previously recorded fingerprint comprises comparing the location on the sensor of at least one feature of the recorded fingerprint with the location on the sensor of the corresponding feature of the previously recorded fingerprint.

9. (Amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein the step of comparing (130) the location of the recorded fingerprint on the sensor with the location of a previously recorded fingerprint comprises comparing the location on the sensor of a partial area of the recorded fingerprint with the location of a corresponding partial area of the previously recorded fingerprint.

10. (Amended) A method according to claim 3, further comprising the step of matching (110) at least one partial area of a reference fingerprint with the recorded fingerprint to obtain at least one matching partial area of the recorded fingerprint, wherein

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the step of comparing the location of the recorded fingerprint on the sensor with the location of a previously recorded fingerprint comprises comparing the location on the sensor of the matching partial area with the location of the corresponding partial area of the previously recorded fingerprint.

11. (Amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein the comparison of the location of the recorded fingerprint on the sensor with the location of a previously recorded fingerprint is carried out only in the event that a matching between a reference fingerprint and the recorded fingerprint reveals that the recorded fingerprint originates from an authorised person.

15. (Amended) A system according to claim 12, wherein the sensor (1) has an integral coordinate system.

16. (Amended) A storage medium for digital information, which medium is readable for a computer system, the storage medium containing a computer program for preventing false acceptance of fingerprints, characterised in that said program implements the method claim 1.

17. (New) A method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of, if the location of the recorded fingerprint on the sensor and the location of the previously

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recorded fingerprint essentially correspond, considering the recorded fingerprint as originating from a latent fingerprint.

18. (New) A method according to claim 4, wherein the previously recorded fingerprint is the immediately preceding fingerprint which was considered as originating from a finger placed on the sensor

19. (New) A method according to claim 4, wherein the previously recorded fingerprint is the immediately preceding fingerprint which was accepted.

20. (New) A method according to claim 3, further comprising the step of storing (150) information about the location of the recorded fingerprint on the sensor if the recorded fingerprint is not considered as originating from a latent fingerprint.

REMARKS

The present Amendment modifies the claim format so as to eliminate the use of multiple dependency.

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The examination and allowance of the Application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By: Benton S. Duffett Jr.

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620

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Marked-up Claims 4 to 11, 15 and 16

4. (Amended) A method according to claim 2 [or 3], further comprising the step of, if the location of the recorded fingerprint on the sensor and the location of the previously recorded fingerprint essentially correspond, considering the recorded fingerprint as originating from a latent fingerprint.

5. (Amended) A method according to claim 3 [or 4], wherein the previously recorded fingerprint is the immediately preceding fingerprint which was considered as originating from a finger placed on the sensor

6. (Amended) A method according to claim 3 [or 4], wherein the previously recorded fingerprint is the immediately preceding fingerprint which was accepted.

7. (Amended) A method according to [any one of claims 2-6] claim 2, further comprising the step of storing (150) information about the location of the recorded fingerprint on the sensor if the recorded fingerprint is not considered as originating from a latent fingerprint.

8. (Amended) A method according to [any one of claims 3-7] claim 3, wherein the step of comparing (130) the location of the recorded fingerprint on the sensor with the location of a previously recorded fingerprint comprises comparing the location on the

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Marked-up Claims 4 to 11, 15 and 16

sensor of at least one feature of the recorded fingerprint with the location on the sensor of the corresponding feature of the previously recorded fingerprint.

9. (Amended) A method according to [any one of claims 3-7] claim 3, wherein the step of comparing (130) the location of the recorded fingerprint on the sensor with the location of a previously recorded fingerprint comprises comparing the location on the sensor of a partial area of the recorded fingerprint with the location of a corresponding partial area of the previously recorded fingerprint.

10. (Amended) A method according to [any one of claims 3-7] claim 3, further comprising the step of matching (110) at least one partial area of a reference fingerprint with the recorded fingerprint to obtain at least one matching partial area of the recorded fingerprint, wherein the step of comparing the location of the recorded fingerprint on the sensor with the location of a previously recorded fingerprint comprises comparing the location on the sensor of the matching partial area with the location of the corresponding partial area of the previously recorded fingerprint.

11. (Amended) A method according to [any one of claims 2-10] claim 2, wherein the comparison of the location of the recorded fingerprint on the sensor with the location of a previously recorded fingerprint is carried out only in the event that a matching

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Marked-up Claims 4 to 11, 15 and 16

between a reference fingerprint and the recorded fingerprint reveals that the recorded fingerprint originates from an authorised person.

15. (Amended) A system according to [any one of claims 12-14] claim 12, wherein the sensor (1) has an integral coordinate system.

16. (Amended) A storage medium for digital information, which medium is readable for a computer system, the storage medium containing a computer program for preventing false acceptance of fingerprints, characterised in that said program implements the method [in any one of claims 1-11] claim 1.

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